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Vinod Khosla's Tweet on Rep. - x +

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India Abroad

A Window Into the Indian-American World

Monday, June 1, 2020 Indian-Americans U.S. Affairs India World Politics Business Opinion Campus Diplomacy Arts & Entertainment Cuisine Sports Announcement

Indian-Americans

Vinod Khosla's Tweet on Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez backfires

By a Staff Writer

Jan 15, 2019

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Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

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Editor's Picks



Low-wage South Asian workers in the U.S. hard hit by coronavirus business downturn

Layoffs are increasing almost daily as businesses are made to shut down because of the deadly infection, prompting people to seek unemployment benefits. Blue-collar employees, including domestic workers, food and hospitality workers, home health aides, taxi drivers and nail and hair salon industry workers, many of whom are South Asians, are desperately looking for financial help from any quarter possible to be able to put food on the table and save their families.



Pandemic in Little India: Anxiety, uncertainty as Indian Americans cope with coronavirus

It won't be an exaggeration to say that life has changed virtually overnight, thanks to the coronavirus pandemic that's brought the world to a standstill. Most people have been staying home, a self-imposed quarantine or else, if you will, as they try to cope with canceled events, closed schools, shuttered offices.

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Responding to Giridharadas' support for the Democratic lawmaker's position, Khosla tweeted: "That is assuming she (Ocasio-Cortez) understands basic economics, actual humans and technology. I doubt if any of those are true," Scroll.in said in a report quoting Khosla's tweet.

Giridharadas brought it to notice of Khosla, 63, that Ocasio-Cortez, 29, the youngest woman ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, had a degree in economics.

“She just courted and won the votes of a great many humans and seems to inspire millions of others,” he said. “And she won a prize at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. So, this sounds like it’s your issue, not hers.”

More than 250 people followed the Khosla-Giridharadas exchange on twitter, with many criticizing Khosla, and some users commented about the sexism of Khosla’s remark and some suggesting that Khosla was afraid of higher taxes.

Ranked among Forbes magazine’s list of 400 richest people of America, Khosla has many accomplishments and awards to his credit. He has a master’s in biomedical engineering from Carnegie Mellon University followed by an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business.

Reacting to Khosla’s tweet, some people posted comments focusing on Khosla’s decade-long unsuccessful fight to privatize a beach in California and make it his own.

“Don’t you have a beach to steal,” asked one.

According to news reports, Khosla bought 89 acres surrounding Martins Beach, south of Half Moon Bay, in 2008. Two years later, in February last year, Khosla locked the gate to a private road that the public had used for generations to access the shoreline, sparking a controversy that has gained national attention.

Khosla appealed to the Supreme Court to review an earlier decision by a California court to restore public access to beach. The court, however, refused to hear Khosla’s appeal to overturn a ruling.

Last August Khosla was ordered to reopen the beach he closed to the public in 2010, ending “this peculiar saga” which has captivated Silicon Valley.

Last week, one user said it was “some serious disruption” – using typical entrepreneurial jargon – given that Khosla had been “able to somehow, some way, transpose this tweet from the cave wall on which you wrote it in 4000 BCE to this website”.

An Indian user jumped in with an IIT reference to the sexism: “IIT bro will be IIT bro,” alluding to newspaper reports about issue of casual sexism at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay(IIT-B).

A survey conducted by Insight, an in-house publication by the students to delve deeper into the issue of casual sexism in Bombay IIT noted last year that as many as 63 percent students are aware about the issue at (IIT-B) but chose to ignore it and trivialized it as a non-issue.

According to the report, another person found a link to a news article from 2017, in which Khosla was quoted as saying that gender discrimination was rarer among venture capitalists than in other industries.

Amidst criticisms and ridicule, some users also caught on to the phrase “actual humans” – what is one, some asked, and another wondered if the opposite of an actual human was Alexa, Amazon’s virtual assistant device.”
